



The Tippet *March, 2015*

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



March Program: **Semi-Annual Club Auction (March 11)**

Don't Miss the Fun and Excitement

One of a Kind Merchandise

Heirlooms

Antiques

Got to Have Items

Items being auctioned include:

Fly fishing gear (historic, used and new), fly fishing vacations, other vacation deals, books, food items, dinner parties, art, camp cooking gear, and of course flies, flies and more flies!

Bring items to donate to the club auction. We all have "stuff" we are not using that may be valuable to someone else. Now's the time to clean the "attic".

Dave Tharp will again be our auctioneer/extraordinaire.

The auction is the club's major fundraiser and supports our scholarship fund.

Please plan to attend and participate in the auction! Bring your checkbook, or cash, and a friend...

Presidents' Message (Joe Vaughan)

Lately, in performance of my club duties, I've been immersed in inventorying the artwork that comprises the Bob Harwood bequest to our club. At the same time I've been handling a startling variety of items intended for auction at our upcoming meeting. While you might think that I'm complaining, and indeed this task is taxing my limited

CFC Calendar

Mar 11, CFC Club Meeting & Auction, Univ Best Western, 5:30 Buffet; Auction 7:00 pm

Mar 18: Fly Tying, 6:30 pm, Moscow Title, Moscow, ID

Mar 31: CFC Executive Committee Mtg, time & location TBA

Apr 8: CFC Club Meeting, Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID

May 16: Amber Lake Fish Out

June 13: CFC Elk River Outing & ID Free Fishing Day

July 10-12: St Joe Fish Out

Additional events at:

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

Information

The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site:
www.clearwaterflycasters.com

Please submit information to the Newsletter Editor.

Meetings 2nd Wed, University Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm

Buffet Dinner \$16, Students \$8: 6:30 pm

Program: 7:30 pm

organizational skills, I've actually been reveling in the experience, as it engages in me a variety of desires and values.

Certainly one desire is to catch more fish, and more different types of fish. In this, Bob Harwood (1927-2012) is deeply inspiring! Bob traveled widely, catching fish and turning them into art through that very tricky looking process called *Gyotaku*, the Japanese art of printing fish onto paper. And seeing these fish as captured in both his originals (we have just a few) and his prints widens my awareness of the world, and the fish to be caught there. And along with fish-lust, so also my desire to travel more widely is given a bit of a goose!

As the bequest of Bob Harwood's art illustrates quite well, when a fisherman passes on there often are artifacts of interest and value to other fisher folk that must find a new home. Such is the case with items that have come to the club from the hands of Dave Engerbretson (1936-2003) and Tom Weber (1947-2013).

I have examined closely a chest-pack, made of sheet aluminum and fitted with straps to be worn on the chest, providing four hinged trays for organized fly storage, a magnifying glass and a case for a alternate reel spool -- perhaps better described as a chest-chest than a chest-pack! It carries an inscribed metal tag with Dave's address. Now, I didn't know Dave personally, but I was a student in the last fly-fishing class he taught at WSU, just before retiring. I recall that he was missing most of a digit on one hand, and while he alluded to this being a streamside mishap while tying on a fly in the presence of hungry fish ('should have stepped behind a tree...') I suspect it betrays experience in shop work, such as sheet metal fabrication. So I hypothesize that Dave was that kind of outdoorsmen who designs and makes his own gear, when he sees a way to do it better, and that's how this chest-chest came to be. If someone who knew Dave personally knows more on that point, I'd love to hear about it.

Our club has also received from Diane Weber a couple of 'cane' rods that Tom apparently acquired from other, more senior, fly fishermen. Our auctioneer Dave Tharp has undertaken a rigorous testing of these rods, I understand, and we can expect to hear about them at the auction.

Now, I'm not of the opinion that one should ceaselessly and pointlessly acquire *things*, and I generally agree with William Morris who famously said "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." That sounds about right. And yet there are qualities of *beauty* in the things created and used by those who have gone before us, and some of those are captured for me by the Japanese terms *wabi* and *sabi*, or as frequently cited, *wabi-sabi*. These two terms together represent the aesthetic we experience in things old, worn, imperfect, perhaps repaired. We feel this value in things used by others we care about, others we remember, those who shared their knowledge and love of fly-fishing with us, before passing on, as we all do, naturally.

Forward Cast:

- **Mar 20 & 21:** North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (Kelly Creek Fly Casters), Clearwater River Casino Event Center
- **April 10:** Palouse Unit American Fisheries Society Wild Game Feed & Auction, 1912 Center, Moscow
- **May 1 & 2:** Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, WA
- **June 6 & 7:** WA free fishing weekend
- **June 13:** CFC Elk River Outing & ID Free Fishing Day
- **Aug 11-15:** International FFF Fair, Bend, OR, Riverhouse Convention Center

Member Recognition:

Congratulations to Dr. George Hinman for winning the 2015 Legacy of Excellence Award presented by the WSU Emeritus Society!



Dr. George W. Hinman has been awarded the 2015 Legacy of Excellence Award. As part of the annual WSU Showcase Celebrating Excellence, he will receive an award and have a brief tribute during the ceremony on Friday, March 28th. He will also have a separate recognition event, during which he will give a lecture on Nuclear Energy Issues in Washington State on Wednesday, March 25th, at 4:00pm in Todd 125.

George is a long standing member of Clearwater Fly Casters. He served as President of CFC in 1978.

Backcast to February Meeting:

President Joe Vaughan presided at the Clearwater Fly Casters meeting.

Guests: Several guests for this meeting including 5 who arrived together: Allison Billow, Suzanne Avery, Jason McCauley, Robert Loesch, and Allyssa Nilsson. Also on the guest list were two members of Kelly Creek Fly Casters, Peg Kingery and Tresha Campbell. Lawrence Rose was a guest of Joy Lunsford (she gives him credit for teaching her how to fly fish). Steve Ulrich, a guest of Doug Young was in attendance as was Tonda Lark's girlfriend, Deloise.

Fishing reports: Doug Baldwin confessed to having gone to the "dark side" while catching and releasing 3 wild steelhead on two trips, including a dandy 32", 22-25 pounder. Another fish pushed 15 pounds. Dave Tharp reported having visited 4th of July Lake but found conditions too windy (not unlike Dave himself?).

Committee Reports:

- Membership Chair, Paul Agidius, reported that we currently have 21 family memberships and 14 individual members. He also shared information about the Moscow Elks Club's reception of a grant in support of teaching fly tying and fly fishing for veterans. He, along with members Doug Baldwin, Mark Ratzlaff, and John Read attended a recent meeting at the Elks where they provided support for this project.

Announcements:

- CFC will be donating a Bob Harwood print to Habitat for Humanity's Beans and Jeans Fundraiser on April 18.
- Tonda Lark reported that his Back Country Lark store is sponsoring basic fly fishing classes on March 31 and April 2. He also now has flies and accessories in stock including women's waders from Patagonia.
- Peg Kingery reminded us of Kelly Creek's Casting for Recovery Class which is in July and based this year at the Flying B in Kamiah. They will again be hosting their "Women's Only" introductory class to fly fishing in September. This offering is now into its 10th year!

- Tresha Campbell promoted KCFC's annual Kelly Creek Expo, scheduled this year for March 20-21.
- Moscow Elks Lodge 249 received a grant for fly tying and fly fishing instruction for veterans. Veterans' Fly Tying Classes are currently offered on Thursday evenings 6 – 8 pm through March 26. Several CFC members (as noted above) have been involved with these classes. Instruction in knot tying and fly casting will also be offered in the future which will provide additional opportunities to get involved.



Raffle was conducted. All raffle tickets will be kept for the rod raffle in December. Members are encouraged to bring "different" raffle items to supplement and support this raffle.

Program Notes:

Speaker Chester Allen presented "Fishing the 4 Desert Rivers: Deschutes, Yakima, Crooked, and Owyhee. He fishes these 4 as well as the Columbia with his wife and strongly promotes the concept of one of the best times of year to fish any of the rivers is during college football season (CFS). Not only are the fish rising then, but the rivers are far less crowded due to fisherman turning to hunting and to football (notice this is particularly



true in Duck country!). He characterized the **Yakima** as a small Deschutes where size 20 Blue Wing Olives are your best bet during CFS. Excellent times to fish the **Deschutes** are in May for the salmon fly hatch and during CFS for the October Caddis hatch. He also suggested that one should "fish the jungle" (bushwhacking) on the Deschutes and that fishing in back eddies late in the day would be quite productive for big fish. The **Crooked River** near Prineville, OR boasts 2000 trout per mile! The most desirable time to fish the Crooked in the summer would be on cloudy days when PMDs transition into caddis as the fly of choice as the day progresses. He claims the Crooked River is the richest river in Oregon and the Iris Caddis is the best Caddis emerger around. The Crooked is "super easy" to wade and be sure to fish the weed beds. It is fishable year round. His favorite time of the year to fish the **Owyhee** is when the weather is hot. Cast to the margins on the side and be ready. Trico hatches from dawn to 9:00 am can be quite good. In addition to the 4 desert rivers, he suggested we not overlook the **Columbia**, especially for smallmouth bass on poppers using a 6-7 weight rod with a weight forward line. His single most important piece of advice for fishing any of these rivers - **KEEP A LOW PROFILE**

Fly of the Month: Tussle Bug

From the FFF website, <http://fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

Hook: #10 – 14 long shank streamer

Thread: 8/0 Uni thread (black or olive)

Body: contrasting colors of embroidery thread or micro ultra chenille (yellow and orange, orange and olive, orange and black, etc.)

Eyes: dumbbell or bead chain eyes (micro with size 14 hook works well)

Tail: Crystal Flash in same colors as embroidery thread

Woven flies are very insect-like with their segmented and striped bodies. Their appearance is appealing to both fish and humans. Although the weaving technique is simple to master, the act of describing it is much more difficult. A woven body is certainly worth the extra effort, and once you learn the technique you can turn out the flies very quickly.



The Tussle Bug involves a simple “granny knot” type weave. To accomplish this, two contrasting colors of material are tied onto a hook. The weave starts at the rear of the hook just before the bend. After your two strands of material are tied in, do a half hitch and cut off the tying thread. Turn the vise to a position where the hook eye faces you. Let both strands of material hang down naturally below the hook. Tie a granny knot with the two strands, **MAKING SURE THE DARKER STRAND IS BEHIND THE LIGHTER ONE WHEN YOU BEGIN THE KNOT**. Do not pull the tag ends of the strands to tighten the knot. Instead, separate the darker strand from the lighter one with your fingers and put the dark one on top of the hook shank and the lighter one below the shank. Now, pull the on the tag ends of the strands and tease the knot as far back on the shank as possible. Repeat this process, making sure the dark strand is in the back of the granny knot when you begin, and the dark strand ends up on top of the hook when you separate the two strands. After a few of these knots you will see a very nice woven body pattern emerge. When you are done, and the body is woven to the length you desire, simply restart your tying thread on the hook shank ahead of your weave, tie the two woven strands off, trim the ends and do a half hitch to complete the body. The Tussle Bug is only one of many flies you can tie using this technique.

Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2015

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Membership and Monthly Meeting:

CFC membership dues are \$20/yr for individuals, \$30/yr for families, \$10/yr for students, \$50/yr sustaining, \$300/lifetime. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday, September through May, at the Best Western University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd, Moscow, Idaho. Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM.